

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3776

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID

SUBJECT: GOI MILITARY SECURITY CHIEF STRESSES LIMITS ON
PERMISSIBLE POLITICS

1. ADMIRAL SUDOMO, CHIEF OF STAFF OF MILITARY SECURITY ORGANIZATION KOPKAMTIB, IN COMMENTS TO PRESS APRIL 10 FOLLOWING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO, GAVE CAPSULIZED STATEMENT OF GOI ATTITUDE TOWARD POLITICAL CONFLICT AND COMPETITION. STATEMENT WAS SPECIFICALLY OCCASIONED BY IMPENDING (APRIL 12-13) CONFERENCE OF INDONESIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AGAINST BACKGROUND OF SERIOUS SPLITS WITHIN PARTY LEADERSHIP, BUT PRINCIPLES ENUNCIATED CLEARLY CHARACTERIZE GOI APPROACH TO POLITICAL ACTIVITY GENERALLY IN PERIOD LEADING UP TO 1977 NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

2. PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE BY SUDOMO WERE:

A. GOI WILL NOT TOLERATE CONFLICTS WITHIN POLITICAL PARTIES, WHICH CAN PRODUCE SOCIAL TENSIONS AND THEREBY JEOPARDIZE NATIONAL STABILITY AND SECURITY AND INVITE OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.

B. POLITICAL "ISSUES" SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DISTURB
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THE PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY DURING PERIOD PRECEDING 1977

GENERAL ELECTION.

C. PRESS SHOULD NOT PERMIT ITSELF TO BE USED AS
MOUTHPIECE FOR CONFLICTING ELEMENTS OF POLITICAL PARTIES OR
FOR ANY OTHER ISSUES THAT MIGHT JEOPARDIZE STABILITY.

3. COMMENT: OPPOSITION ON PART OF MILITARY-DOMINATED
SUHARTO GOVERNMENT TO COMPETITIVE "POLITICS" WHICH
CHARACTERIZED PRE-1965 INDONESIA REMAINS AS DEEP-SEATED AS
IT WAS DURING RUN-UP TO FIRST NEW ORDER PERIOD GENERAL
ELECTION IN 1971. BASIC GOI POLICY THAT ELECTION CAMPAIGN
IS TIME FOR MAXIMUM AVOIDANCE OF POLITICAL CONTROVERSY WILL
CONTINUE TO APPLY -- AND TO BE ENFORCED WITH VIGOR -- DURING
1977 ELECTION.
NEWSOM

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